

## Speech of the President of France at the Sydney Naval Base, Garden Island

Thanks very much for your words and thanks very much for your invitation. Mr and Mrs. Ministers, Captain, officers, mariners, ladies and gentlemen, honourable guests. Let me thank you first for this invitation and for organising this occasion to exchange our strategic partnership and relations. And thank you very much for all this explanation, regarding our common interests and our common strategies.

This morning, we had the opportunity to exchange about our long standing history and our relationship regarding your commitment for freedom, your commitment for our country one century ago entering the second world war. Now, what we are building is a new phase of our relationship. What we are building today, a new strong, modern and long-term partnership. That is what is at stake and this call of history you mention is precisely what we have to react to especially in the region. First of all, the first message that I wanted to convey this afternoon is about France as a partner for you and France especially in the region. A lot of representatives of them, New Caledonia, are present with us in the delegation and I want to thank them for that because France, indeed, is an Indo-Pacific power. We are present in the region through New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia as well as in the Indian Ocean through Mayotte and Reunion island. 1.6 million French people live in the region, 8000 soldiers work everyday for the security of the region and this is one of the key elements of our maritime presence in the world with many thousands, millions of kms of presence in the seas thanks to these territories. France is fully committed to this part oof the globe and France now endorses role as an active Indo-Pacific power alongside with its partners and that's why our special partnership, for me, is very meaningful. Regarding these interests and regarding this presence I mentioned. Our security is the security of our citizens in the region our interest, our perspective is precisely to work alongside you, our partners in the region, even with this very strong presence, we've forgotten our past, to present values as presence in the region. Without that we spoke about small island, specific territories, forgetting this important role of all the French territories in Indo-pacific region. That's why, I follow very carefully the definition of your foreign policy white paper precising your strategy, especially your foreign affairs strategy, in the region for the coming decade. I do share, your conclusions and I do share your key objectives and I have to say we issued a strategic paper few months ago, October 2017 totally in line with your strategic view and this white paper.

And today, as we speak here, we have a lot of huge change, a big transformation taking place in the region which fully justifies our partnership. Indeed, we have to face in this region, after decades and centuries of big change, a new series of gamechangers. The first one is the evolution of Chinese strategy in the region. We spoke this morning about this issue, on, a lot

of key challenges, climate change and some others, China decided to fulfil its commitment and become a global power. I had a discussion with President Xi at the beginning of this year, on such a dialogue. Such a frank dialogue with China and including the security and stability of the region. China is fully aware of the difference between supremacy and stability and hegemony on the other side. With the belt and road initiative, China is building a new concept, a new international concept and they are totally reshaping a lot of region of our world. And to me, the question is not to react to this initiative, not to oppose this initiative, but, much more significantly, to build a dialogue with our allies. TO define new rules of the game, in common, as we decided to do so, especially around the table at G20. To be sure that, there is full respect, of reciprocity in our economic and trade relationship, to be sure that our strategic interests in the region and especially in Indo-Pacific are totally aligned with the interests of our key allies. To be sure that rule of law is fully respected and to be sure that all the key liberties are respected in the region. I mean, we are not naïve and if we want to be seen and respected, as a partner by China, as an equal partner, we have to organise ourselves and you are fairly reminded this morning that these existing rules, this order we know, this multilateralism was the precondition of a Chinese development in the overall region. That's why we have to preserve it, for our interests and for the Chinese interests as well because that's a precondition for stability and order in the region. That's why, I do think it is very important, to build together given this change, a common strategy, a common partnership. That's why I consider it doubly critical to protect some key sectors of our economy and investments in critical sectors and sovereign sectors in our economy and for the development of our countries.

That's why, I do believe it's very important to preserve our key technologies and intellectual properties all around the world. I know, the positioning of the US could trigger some debate. Especially, after some questions regarding the TPP. The US are one of the key allies for us and a longstanding friend. We want to work with the United States, and this allies with the US is absolutely critical for Australia as well. On defence and security, and there is no question here to challenge each other but to build a common framework where we can optimise our position and we can work efficiently, more efficiently together. And I think it is totally consistent with your strategy to diversify your different partnerships, in order to preserve your strategic independence and preserve your interests and I do share this view, I do respect this strategy and this view. That's why we have to enshrine our vision and our action in this new drama of foreign affairs and international relationship in order to build a new-strong Indo-pacific axis. This new notion of Indo-Pacific axis, not just a formula to me, or slogan or motto. This is, and it should be a actual geostrategic order neo order. We are building this new order, that is absolutely critical for our two countries. We have a lot of partners to build it. India first, with our cooperation, both of us have a very strong cooperation with India. We increased this cooperation with Rafale and we increased this cooperation a lot these past years. But, for at least 2 decades, we built together a strong partnership and we are increasing precisely the substance of this partnership. With Malaysia and Singapore, and precisely this morning you remind the important of these countries in the region. WE have as well a very important and longstanding cooperation and we want to develop in the coming months this cooperation by an increase presence of France in the different for a of the region in direct link with Indonesia

as well as Vietnam, Japan as very important partners and we have specific and strategic dialogue as well in the defence and foreign affairs as well. But for me, Australia and India are the critical partners to this new Indo-Pacific alliance and axis. And that's why this axis, Paris-Delhi-Canberra, is absolutely key to frame the region and frame our common interests in Indo-Pacific. That's why we adopted last march with PM Modi, a common vision statement on our cooperation in Indian ocean and this vision is totally in Line with our common vision and the strategy we are setting up today.

I think Mr. Prime Minister, we fully agree, to design this new strategy in common and this new roadmap with concrete objectives and concrete actions to be delivered in the coming months and coming years. It's something our ministers will work on and populate in the coming days, weeks and months. But, that's a list of concrete actions we want to deliver in order to build and elaborate alongside this strategic alignment. The objectives of this Indo-pacific axis are to be highlighted this afternoon and I want to revert at them.

The first objective is to address the main crisis through dialogue and constant discussions. We have to ensure full respect of freedom of navigation, liberty of our different seas and circulation within the overall region, That's how to ensure that United Nations framework and United Nations rules are fully respected on seas as well as the air. This is precondition of stability and France would be very much willing to ensure full respect in different for a and difference multilateral commitments that we have. We will work with you and do part of our jobs through our Frigates, our submarines, our aircrafts, in order to ensure that this neutrality and freedom of circulation is fully ensured all over the region. Directly through Partnership to preserve your interests and that of our allies in the region. The condition of stability is, as well, a definition of strong multilateralism and you reverted this formula. Indeed, I do believe that favouring multilateral means preferring dialogue to crisis and increasing violence. It means avoiding taking any risk of escalation and precisely favouring a permanent dialogue. But without being naïve and precisely in order to ensure that we are respected all the time and I think it's part of this partnership we want to design.

The second objective of this Indo-pacific axis, is to ensure our common safety and security. That's what we do, today, in the middle east, thanks to the international coalition. You're one of the main powers in this international coalition against ISIS and I want to thank you for that. And your participation to the different operations in the region against ISIS that's what your forces OKHA do, in cooperation with our forces CHAMAL and in perfect coordination with Australian and French aircrafts precisely in tremendous operations we decided together. This battle against ISIS is not yet finished, we have accomplished probably 90% of what we have to do and we will remain fully committed with our partners and our allies in the region, in order to finalise this war against ISIS and all the terrorist groups in the region. Beyond this coordination, we will work together, and be coordinated together to win peace after this war. These terrorist groups today, are very much present in the middle east and we fight together

against them. But they are more and more active in south-east Asia, and they are strengthening their position there. These are the concerns and more and more involvement and we want to work alongside you in the region as well. At a global scale, in order to address this terrorist threat we want to work together in the framework of this partnership. In order to fight against financing for terrorist groups, that's the main reason for the Paris coalition we gathered last week, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Paris, where your minister was present, through this initiative no money for terror. And I want to thank you Mr. Prime Minister for accepting to host, in 2019, a new meeting of this coalition, this Paris coalition with a lot of countries which are not used to working together, with a lot of countries which did not share some interests and financed different interest groups and sometimes made mistakes. But now everybody has decided to work together, in order to precisely to fight against terrorism and to fight against the financing for terrorism. That's a very important step forward, that's a very concrete agreement we have together, in this fight against terrorism. Middle east, South east Asia, financing are the critical items on which we work today and will work, in order precisely to fight against these different terrorist groups. Another issue for safety and security is nuclear weapons, and I think we share the same vision and same view for the North Korean nuclear crisis and I want to thank you for your constant efforts, in the region to avoid any instance of instability in the region and any escalation. And I do share your views that the more we increase our pressure, acquired pressure, in order to be sure that we deliver in reducing this nuclear power in framing the coming year and denuclearising the whole region are much important. The recent announcements and statements made by North Korea in order to stop precisely this nuclear activity and the upcoming negotiations are very much important for the region obviously but very much important for all of us. That's why we work closely and do share the same vision as well for the JCPOA and this morning we shared some words about that and that's why both of us do consider that we have to reduce tension and negativity around the Iranian agreement and definitely we have to complement this agreement with new items in order to stabilise the region but we should not jeopardise what we have built over the last decade.

The third item, critical regarding our safety and security is regarding the trafficking and fighting together against trafficking. Arms, drugs and human trafficking our one of the key elements onto which we want to work together and increase our cooperation in the region and it is a critical item for this Indo-pacific axis in terms of security. We work closely together against drug trafficking in Pacific and we get pretty good results during the past months and years. We worked very closely against threat in the region through different initiatives largely coordinated with the European Union. Today, the situation is especially worrying when you look at the different waters around Philippines and Malaysia and we have to strengthen our cooperation in order to be more and more efficient, in order to work closely together and fight against these different trafficking in the region. We are ready to do more, we are ready to increase our cooperation especially alongside Philippines and Malaysia in order to work closely with you against these trafficking.

The third objective of this Indo-pacific axis, is what you called liberty of sovereignty. Indeed, you used these terms in Hamburg and Paris last June, and the increasing tensions in terms of overall sovereignty in the region are one of the vulnerable factors of peace and stability in Indo-pacific. A lot of powers are emerging and jeopardising our current rule or order and for sure, no space will basically apart from this risk. That's why we have to strengthen our cooperation in defence and equipment. The decision you took in 2016, was very important one. Obviously for your defence industry, but for our partnerships as a framework and for me, this is a result of very good offers and very good organisations of your overall process but the very beginning of a government to government relationship in order to elaborate on this contract and in order to deliver much more than that. These 12 sermons are absolutely critical. Critical for the industry in your country and employment and jobs created especially for you Mr. Premier. I do understand the message for our industry, our partnership, very important for our defence people. But, all in all, very important because it is the very beginning of government to government strategy we want to develop for the upcoming 50 years. On seas, on air we want to work more and more closely and that's why I want to thank Australia for its participation to the different exercises regard with South cross organised in New Caledonia alongside with 11 other partners and allies and I want to underline precisely the streamer-French mirage taking part of this operation, organised by Canberra and India participating as well to this operation. These exercises are a perfect illustration of these new partnerships and new axis and what we are doing is exactly starting this strategic partnership, these different strategic partnerships plus the operational partnerships as well, thanks to these kind of operations. We decided as well to strengthen our capacity and strengthen our logistical agreement and I thank all these agreements finalised are very important steps forward in this common cooperation. This is why as well, you decided to choose naval group, as a partner of design and building of these 12 submarines, This is why as well now, we want to make this step forward to be sure that we will deliver and you know well, the full commitment of the French republic for the coming decade. But to be sure that we will do more together. Between our governments, between our companies, involving as well the SME's and other partners. This partnership is very important for an operational point of view, but it is very important as well because it will create a new commitment for the decade. We added, this morning, a new very important step, according to me, in this defence and security partnership the cyber security commitment we took together is the main issue to our sovereignty. Major issue because we are more and more attacked by other powers, we have experienced a lot of cyber attacks and deciding to coordinate ourselves, to exchange information, to exchange best practice, to be sure that our players, our government, our competent action work closely together in order to protect ourself and in order to organise as well. Our answers are absolutely critical in the current environment.

The fourth objective, of the Indo-Pacific, is at the end, about Climate change. Because of it is fully a port of this axis, we have a lot of islands and a lot of countries in the region, which are the first victims of climate change. Not just because they are experiencing, like our countries, problems of air pollution or CO2. No, just because they can disappear due to climate change in the coming years or decades. In this region of the globe, climate change is not an abstract notion, but it will be a huge source of revolution, of huge humanitarian struggles, of huge

geopolitical changes. So in the indo-pacific, we have to address this big change, we definitely have to elaborate on this common commitment against climate change. I want to thank you for your commitment and your agreement to sign and ratify the Paris agreement and to preserve in the region this agreement after some recent decisions of other partners. That alone is the partnership we have altogether. But what we decided this morning as well is to go further and to have concrete proposals. First, on solar, both are members of the international solar alliance, launched in Delhi a few weeks ago you have a lot of opportunity here and you took great initiatives. Some of our companies are part of this initiative and I think it's very important now to deliver, to have concrete results because It will be the best way to show that thanks to solar energy we will create jobs, thanks to innovation, we can deliver reliable energy through solar initiatives. And everything is accelerated, but our partnership in research in business terms, are absolutely critical in the framework of this partnership. Second we decided to work very closely together for biodiversity, for our oceans and we will work very closely, precisely to stick to our commitments to deliver along the one planet summit's commitment together and work alongside New Zealand and other allies in order to have concrete results to preserve our biodiversity, oceans and be sure that precisely we will win this ongoing battle. But for sure, environment is the force objective of our actions. This Indo-pacific axis is brand new, that as a geopolitical concept and a geopolitical reality we have now to put in place, we have to deliver concrete actions and concrete results because that's our answer to the current environment. That's our actual answer to a lot of unstability and uncertainties in the current environment.

Ladies and Gentleman, we have in common with Australia a lot of things. Values that we protected all the decade and centuries, the taste for freedom, the taste for new experiences I would say and I do believe, that this new partnership, this Indo-pacific axis, this strategic partnership I just tried to describe is very critical to our countries, is part of this common taste for freedom and conquest. We have an Indo-pacific destiny, we have a common destiny. And in this common destiny, we want to work together, this is the common destiny now, we want to invent together in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, that's our mission. That's our history, that's our call for destiny and that's what, Mr. Prime Minister, France wants to do with Australia. Thanks very much.